Projects under N.I.O.

5245. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects undertaken by NIO (Goa) during 1995 and 1996;

(b) whether NIO has any projects to cover Antarctica; and

(c) if so, the details of proposal and objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) NIO carried out 92 projects during 1995-96 and has undertaken 99 projects in 1996-97. These projects have been broadly directed towards developing knowledge base relating to Physical, Chemical, Biological, Geological, Geophysical, Engineering and Pollution aspects of the seas around India to assist in the national endeavour of exploiting the sea resources. In 1995-96, of the 92 projects there were 49 sponsored and consultancy projects, 8 grant-in-aid projects and 7 projects with international collaboration besides 28 inhouse projects. In 1996-97, of the 99 projects, 28 are sponsored and consultancy projects, 33 grant-in-aid projects and 10 with international collaboration besides 28 in house projects.

(b) and (c) A major project at NIO pertains to Antarctic research with the objective to investigate the basic aspects of polar life in relation to environmental variability and physiological and bio-medical potential.

Mass Rapid Transport System

5246. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether MRTS (Mass Rapid Transport System) is to be handed over to the Ministry of Railways; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The planning and coordination of projects relating to Urban Transport was assigned to the Ministry of Urban Development (now Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment) in 1986. The Ministry of Railways have not asked for any change in this arrangement.

Oil and Gas Reserves

5247. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched an accelerated exploration programme to discover oil and gas reserves;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the places where such reserves has been discovered; and

(d) the further plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) In order to enhance exploration efforts and increase hydrocarbon reserves the Government launched an Accelerated Programme of Exploration (APEX) in 1994 involving an estimated expenditure of approx. Rs. 6500 crores. APEX has the following components :—

(a) Enhanced exploratory inputs.

(b) National Seismic Programme.

(c) Deep water exploration.

(d) Exploration in frontier areas.

(e) Acquisition of foreign acreage/farm-in.

(c) During the period 1994-96 oil and gas been found in about 29 locations spread ever the States of Assam, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Eastern and Western offshore.

(d) The exploration efforts are planned to be intensified and accelerated through the national oil companies and participation of private companies/joint venture companies in exploration and development programmes.

[Translation]

Delimitation of National Capital Territory of Delhi

5248. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to delimit the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether schemes have been identified wherein the need of the participation of the private sector is felt; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) :

(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Solar Energy Technology Development Centres

5249. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Solar Energy Technology Development Centres; and

(b) if so, the location thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) A Solar Energy Centre has been set up at Gwalpahari, District Gurgaon (Haryana) for research & development, testing, training and information dissemination on Solar energy technologies. In addition, the Ministry is also supporting six Regional Test Centres at Madurai (Tamil Nadu), Vallabh Vidyanagar (Gujarat), Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Pune (Maharashtra), Chandigarh (Chandigarh) and Calcutta (West Bengal) for testing of solar them all products and providing technical services to industries. Testing Centres for photovoltaic products have also been sanctioned for Calcutta, Bangalore and Trivandrum. These is no proposal at present for establishing any other solar energy technology development centre.

Hike in Rate of Flats

5250. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "shattered dream houses, GDA style", appearing in the "Times of India" dated August 23, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ghaziabad Development Authority has reported that the scheme under reference was published in 1988; the rate at that time was estimated to be Rs. 75,000/- per flat. Presently, drinking water, electricity and two lifts (per tower) are available. GDA has also made suitable arrangement for lighting the common passage and keeping it clean. The Authority has constructed a Community Centre which also contains a separate hall for club facilities. Facilities are also available for indoor games such as bridge, billiards, table tennis, etc. Under the scheme health care, land has been allotted for nursing home and hospital; provision has been made for school. The housing complex has the facilities of State run health centre also. As per the report of GDA suitable provisions have been made for cable operators for providing Multi-channel T.V. facilities. The plants of 1988 showed a covered area of 240 sq. ft. where as under the present construction, covered area is 270 sq. ft.

GDA has reported that maximum development work of the apartments has been completed. Work on parking lights and drainage is under way. When the scheme was notified in 1988, the cost per flat was estimated to be Rs. 75,000/-. However, escalation of prices has taken place over the years.

Diesel Imports

5251. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has to reduce diesel imports and forced to pay hafty sums as demurrages due to port congestions especially at Madras and Haldia Ports;

(b) if so, the details of the demurrage charged paid by I.O.C. so far during this year; and

(c) the action, if any, proposed to be taken to solve this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cogentrix Power Project

5252. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1000 MW Cogentrix thermal power plant has been given appvoal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the project had earlier been rejected by the scientists;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the grounds therefor;